

TEXAS BOWL VICTORY ISSUE

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**ALSO INSIDE**

FOOTBALL REWIND  
2020 SIGNING CLASS  
AND MORE...



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MOND LEADS AGGIES TO COMEBACK WIN OVER COWBOYS



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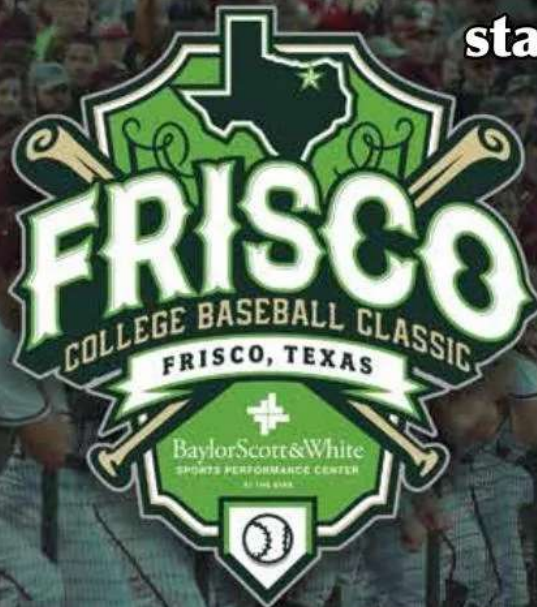
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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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**On the Cover:** Kellen Mond wraps up the season with a Texas Bowl win and earns the MVP of the game!

Photo by Rob Havens '88



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# Howdy Ags!

Happy 2020 and the beginning of a new decade of Aggie sports! The football team finished the season with a huge Texas Bowl win over Oklahoma State. After a tough beginning, the Aggies were able to battle back from a 14-0 deficit to defeat the former conference foe. In addition to the extra 15 practices that earning a bowl invitation provides, the Aggies can use the momentum gained from the win to propel them to a successful 2020 season!

Jimbo Fisher and his staff assembled another top ten recruiting class, and inside this issue we break down the early signing class that was ranked number six in the country. The new roster is full of four and five star talent that Jimbo is developing to compete with the best in the nation. The Aggies should benefit from a more favorable schedule next fall, and the goal is to finally break into the CFP playoffs!

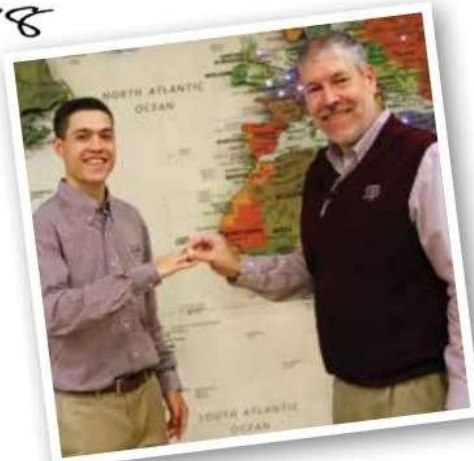
There truly is a “buzz” on campus as our men’s basketball team has developed into one of the scrappiest bunch of guys to ever wear the Maroon and White. I think it’s fair to say that they force their opponents to play their brand of basketball. It can be ugly at times, but this team works hard and grinds out wins.

The beginning of the baseball season is right around the corner and Coach Childress will once again field a preseason top 25 squad and one of the best pitching staffs in America. I can’t wait to hear the echos of “Thunderstruck” ringing through Aggieland as our boys take the field!

On a personal note, I had the honor of presenting my son Tyler Havens with his Aggie Ring in November. He is a Construction Science major and will graduate in May! Your mom and I are so proud of you!

Gig’em Ags!

*Rob '88*



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snapshot

## ... game changer

Early in the fourth quarter of the Texas Bowl, with the score tied, Kellen Mond cut back across the field and raced 67 yards for the go-ahead touchdown. Cowboy defender, Tre Sterling, made a diving attempt to tackle him at the 25, but Kellen was able to keep his balance and take the ball to the house. Mond rushed for 117 yards in the Texas Bowl and was named MVP of the game. Photo by Rob Havens '88













## ... posterized

Freshman Emanuel Miller puts A&M-Corpus Christi defender Elijah Schmidt on a poster with this monster dunk. The talented forward had a breakout game against the Islanders, posting a career-high 20 points in 33 minutes of play. He also collected six rebounds in the come-from-behind win.

Photo by Rob Havens '88



snapshot







## ... fightin' texas aggie band


Stepping off for the final time in 2019, the Aggies once again impressed the partisan crowd with an amazing half time show. Showing the precision that is unmatched across the country, the front line of senior cadets led the band across the midfield of NRG Stadium. The Aggies defeated the Cowboys in the Texas Bowl 24-21, and once again, the band stayed undefeated.

Photo by Rob Havens '88



Celebrate the 40's at the  
Museum of the American G.I.

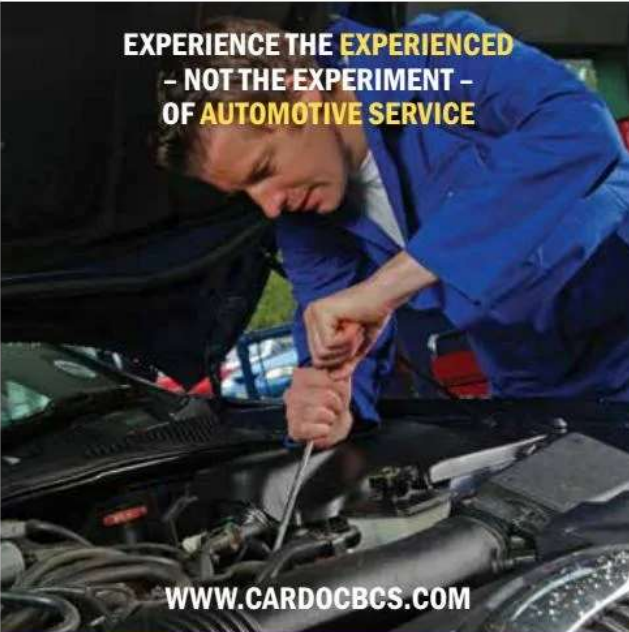
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**Good luck, Texas A&M, on a winning season!**

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**[WOMEN'S BASKETBALL]** Through the first half of the season, the Aggies sit at 14-2 with a 2-1 conference record. They hammered Duke early, and they opened conference play with a big win over No. 20 Arkansas. Chennedy Carter, one of the country's best players, has had another stellar year but suffered an ankle injury during the LSU game and didn't return. This team has plenty of talent, but they will need their star player back to make a deep run in the postseason.



**[MEN'S BASKETBALL]** Under the direction of new head coach Buzz Williams, this team has scrapped its way to an 8-6 start, including a 2-1 conference record. This team has battled this season and can credit its defensive effort for the success it has had. The Ags currently sit as the worst three-point shooting team in the country, but they have found a way to win games by enforcing their way to play on their opponents. The team has bought into Coach Williams' system and are giving great effort. The future is bright for Aggie Basketball!





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**[SOCCER]** The Aggies earned a first-round match at home against their longtime rival Texas Longhorns in the NCAA Tournament. In front of the second largest crowd to watch an NCAA tourney game at Ellis Field, the Aggies dominated the Horns 4-1. The win advanced the team to the second round for the 22nd straight time. Unfortunately the team ran out of time vs the USC squad, falling 2-1 in Los Angeles. The team finished the season with a 14-5-3 record.

**[VOLLEYBALL]** In only the second season under Coach "Bird," the Aggies advanced all the way to the Sweet 16! The team earned the number 13 overall seed and defeated St. John's 3-0 to open the tournament. That set up a match vs No. 21 Rice, who had defeated No.2 Texas earlier this season. The Aggie won a hard-fought match 3-1 to make it into the Sweet 16. Texas A&M earned a trip to Wisconsin to face the No. 4 Badgers. The team fought hard but fell to the squad that wound up making it all the way to the championship game. The Ags finished the season 23-8.







# FOOTBALL REWIND 2019

## GAME 9

14  
45 | UTSA  
A&M

Coming off the most complete game of the season, Texas A&M looked to continue their momentum against the Roadrunners of UTSA. The Ags spotted their opponent 7 points on a 67-yard drive in the first quarter. That lead was short lived however, as Isaiah Spiller took a handoff and sprinted 60 yards on the Aggies' next offensive play to tie up the game. Spiller would go on to have a record setting day, as the talented true freshman rushed for 217 yards and three touchdowns. Jalen Wydermyer continued to produce for the Aggies, as the freshman tight end caught a 7-yard touchdown pass from Kellen Mond in the second quarter. Mond finished the game with 211 yards passing and added a touchdown of his own, scoring from one yard out in the fourth quarter. The defense kept Roadrunner quarterbacks scurrying around all afternoon, as they had four sacks and seven hits on the signal caller during the game. Freshman defensive end DeMarvin Leal had a season best six tackles, including two for loss in the victory.





## GAME 10

6  
30

S. CAROLINA  
A&M



The Aggies won their fourth game in a row when they took down the Gamecocks in game ten. Our defense dominated, allowing only 45 yards on the ground and holding South Carolina to just six points. They forced USC to punt a total of eight times. Buddy Johnson and Anthony Hines III led the team in tackles with six apiece. The Aggies had two hundred-yard rushers on offense; Isaiah Spiller continued to post big yards and sophomore Cordarrian Richardson had a breakout game with 130 yards rushing and a touchdown. Six different players caught passes from Kellen Mond, who threw for 221 yards with one touchdown. Jalen Wydermyer and Quartney Davis led the receiving corps with five catches each. The Ags went 5-for-5 in the red zone, marking the sixth time this season that they were able to score on every red zone possession. The defense was outstanding on third down. They didn't allow the Gamecocks to get a first, stopping them on all ten attempts. The six points allowed were the fewest the team has allowed versus an SEC opponent since November 21, 2015 when the Ags beat Vandy 25-0.



## GAME 11

13  
19 | A&M  
GEORGIA

This game was a heart breaker, as the Aggies not only had to battle the eleven men on the other side of the ball but also the guys wearing the black and white striped shirts calling the game. On Georgia's only touchdown of the game, George Pickens grabbed DeBione Renfro's facemask and yanked it toward the ground, creating enough space to catch a touchdown pass from Fromm. In the third quarter, Jalen Wydermyer gained a first down, but his forward progress was stopped. As he was pushed back, he was stripped of the ball which Georgia recovered. The Dawgs scored a field goal on the ensuing drive. Throw in a pair of pass interference non-calls and the Aggies were hosed in Athens. The Ags battled hard during a rain-soaked first half, but were only able to score three points and trailed by ten at the half. They battled back to score ten points in the second half and looked to be in good shape driving for the go ahead score, but Georgia's defense interfered with Wydermyer deep in their territory and the Aggies were forced to punt. The Aggies had a great chance to beat the No. 4 team in the country.





7  
50A&M  
LSU

The Tigers were fired up after losing to the Aggies 74-72 in a classic game at Kyle Field last year. The week before the game this year, Coach O continued to stoke the fire as he professed losing that game was "the worst day of my life!" Who can blame him? He had to endure a Gatorade-drenched outfit for close to two hours watching his team get beat in front of a nationally televised audience. The Tigers continued to yap all week about the redemption that they sought and how things would be different this year. It brought back memories for me of 1989, when LSU baseball defeated A&M twice in the same day to keep us from going to the College World Series — a day that still stings when I think about it. Although we have beaten them several times over the years, nothing can take away that pain. The Tigers did come out and play their best, and they hammered the Aggies 50-7. The lone bright spot for the Aggies was a beautiful 75-yard drive in the third quarter, as the Aggies drove the length of the field in six plays. The feature play on the drive was a 45-yard catch and run by Isaiah Spiller. Unfortunately, this game was over after the first quarter, and it was only a matter of the final score. Our Aggies didn't give up and continued to fight. Hopefully our guys will remember this next year when we play. As for the Tigers, I take solace in knowing in 30 years they will still remember that 74-72 win! Gig'em Aggies!





# THE AGGIES TWO-STEP TO A TEXAS BOWL VICTORY

[ GAME 13: OKLAHOMA STATE 21, **A&M 24** ]



There has been a change over the last few years concerning the importance of the bowl game. With the creation of the College Football Playoffs, a lot of the bowls have lost their luster and today's college players are skipping them to protect themselves from injury as they prepare for the chance to play in the NFL. For the first time in program history, the Aggies had a player choose to do that.

Under the former coaching staff, when the Aggies played in the Texas Bowl against Kansas State, and in the Belk Bowl against Wake Forest, I noticed a lack of intensity in the days leading up to the Bowl and even during pregame warm-ups. That was not the case last year as I watched our guys warm-up before the Gator Bowl. So I asked Coach Fisher before the Texas Bowl what his approach was that brought such a different mindset to our players. "Bowl games are a certain animal of their own," he replied. "It's not like any other sport when you go into playoffs the next week, you're waiting a month. There is preparation. Listen, any game you play that you are keeping score, you gotta be ready to play. We're gonna have a good time when it's time to have a good time, but in the games that you have the best time at the bowl game is when you play really well and win. I promise you. That's when you do well."

So, as this team prepared for the Texas Bowl, I had no doubt that in front of a big Texas Aggie crowd our team would be ready to play. Unfortunately, the Aggies got off to a tough start. On the first series, Kellen Mond was tackled from behind and fumbled the ball, setting the Cowboys up in Aggie territory. The defense came in and was able to keep the game scoreless by holding the Pokes and forcing a 53-yard field goal attempt which Ammendola missed.

Oklahoma State did score touchdowns on their next two drives and took over the momentum in the contest with just one quarter in the books. Things went from bad to worse on



the next drive as the Aggies drove the length of the field only to fumble on State's five-yard line, once again firing up the Cowboy faithful.

The defense came into the game and was able to stifle the high-powered offense of Okie State and force a bad punt which finally gave A&M great field position and a chance to put points on the scoreboard. During the month-long break, Jimbo Fisher transitioned freshman phenom Ainias Smith into a tailback to fill holes left by our diminishing running back group. Smith got the offense going with an 11-yard catch to put the Ags in scoring position. Mond used his legs to get the Aggies close and Isaiah Spiller dove into the end zone on a second and goal play to give the Aggies their first touchdown.

The Cowboys were unable to answer and the score was 14-7 at halftime. The Aggies had struggled in the first half, but after two fumbles and two missed field goals by OSU they were still only a touchdown away from tying up the game.

The Aggies held the Pokes to three and out on their first drive of the second half and then drove the ball sixty yards for the tying score. Mond found a diving Jhamon Ausbon in the end zone to knot up the game at 14.

The teams traded possessions until finally in the fourth quarter on a second and five Mond took off and cutback across the field racing 67 yards for the go-ahead touchdown. NRG exploded as the 12th Man came to life imploring the Aggies to beat the former Big 12 foe.

The Cowboys were not going away and drove down the field sixty-two yards and were faced with a huge fourth and one. They brought in Spencer Sanders their rushing quarterback who found an opening before big DeMarvin Leal closed the door and stopped him cold for no gain.

The Aggies chewed up the clock and drove the ball down to the OSU seven-yard line. The big play on the drive was a Kellen Mond rush for 30 yards getting the Ags to the Red Zone. Seth Small came in and knocked in a 24-yard field goal to extend the Aggie lead to ten.

The Cowboys would not go away and Braydon Johnson had a big kickoff return that went for 38 yards. Braydon Mann stepping on the field for the last time as an Aggie made a touchdown-saving tackle to end his college career. The Pokes took advantage of the short field and went 8 plays for 59 yards scoring on a five-yard pass with just over a minute to play to draw the teams within three.

OSU had one more chance but needed an onside kick to keep their hopes alive. Jake McClure spun around and sent a kick rolling to the short side of the formation but Isaiah Spiller was able to corral the ball and seal the victory.

Jimbo Fisher was drowned with a full cooler of Gatorade as the players celebrated on the sideline. Kellen Mond, who proudly sported a black cowboy hat, was named the Texas Bowl MVP after rushing for 117 yards and a touchdown while completing 13 passes for 95 yards and a score through the air.

The Aggies battled through the toughest schedule in the country. Facing three No. 1 teams and both participants of the National Championship game. The schedule is more favorable next season and with a top ten class coming in, the Ags have their sights set on the CFP Playoffs and a shot at the National title!





# 2020 RECRUITING CLASS



DEVIN  
PRICE

PHOTO COURTESY OF UZ CHIVVIS



## STACKING IT UP

How the Ags' 2020  
recruiting class ranks in the SEC

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.





DEVON  
**ACHANE**



<b>POSITION</b> RUNNING BACK	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 5'9"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 176
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> FORT BEND MARSHALL	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> MISSOURI CITY, TX	
Rushed for 2,097 yards on 185 attempts (11.3 yards per carry) and 38 touchdowns. Added 32 receptions and 694 yards along with 10 touchdowns through the air.	

JOSH  
**BANKHEAD**



<b>POSITION</b> OFFENSIVE LINE	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'5"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 310
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> COLLEGE PARK	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> THE WOODLANDS, TX	
Finalist for 2019 Touchdown Club of Houston Offensive Player of the Year.	

SMART  
**CHIBUZO**



<b>POSITION</b> OFFENSIVE LINE	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'4"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 350
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> HIGHTOWER	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> FRESNO, TX	
Anchored an offensive line that saw his team average over 280 yards of offensive per game.	

DEMOND  
**DEMAS**



<b>POSITION</b> WIDE RECEIVER	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 180
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> TOMBALL	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> TOMBALL, TX	
Army All-American. 2020 Polynesian Bowl. In 2018, racked up 50 catches for 1,574 yards and 23 touchdowns through the air.	

FADIL  
**DIGGS**



<b>POSITION</b> DEFENSIVE END	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'5"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 230
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> WOODROW WILSON	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> EAST CAMDEN, NJ	
Tallied 99 tackles including 19 sacks and added five forced fumbles. On offense, recorded 67 catches for 1,033 yards and 11 touchdowns.	

ANTONIO  
**DOYLE JR.**



<b>POSITION</b> LINEBACKER	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 229
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> LUTHERAN NORTH	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> ST. LOUIS, MO	
Army All-American. Totalled 73 tackles and 12 tackles-for-loss including three sacks as a senior. Added a pair of fumble recoveries. 2019 Metro League Player of the Year.	

BRIAN  
**GEORGE**



<b>POSITION</b> CORNERBACK	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'2"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 190
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> GLADES CENTRAL	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> BELLE GLADE, FL	
2019 JUCO Second Team All-American. Recorded a pair of interceptions and six pass breakups while totaling 26 tackles and a fumble recovery. Averaged 22.7 yards per kick return.	

DONELL  
**HARRIS JR.**



<b>POSITION</b> DEFENSIVE END	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 229
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> GULLIVER PREP	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> LIBERTY CITY, FL	
Army All-American. 2020 Polynesian Bowl. Posted 19 sacks among 60 tackles and 24 tackles-for-loss. Forced and recovered one fumble.	

DEONDRE  
**JACKSON**



<b>POSITION</b> RUNNING BACK	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 5'11"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 211
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> STEPHENSON	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> STONE MOUNTAIN, GA	
Posted 1,220 rushing yards on 183 attempts and 20 touchdowns.	



JORDAN  
**JEFFERSON**



<b>POSITION</b> OFFENSIVE LINE	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'0"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 304
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> NAVASOTA	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> NAVASOTA, TX	
Earned All-District honors as a sophomore and junior after being named the Newcomer of the Year as a freshman.	

ANTONIO  
**JOHNSON JR.**



<b>POSITION</b> SAFETY	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 182
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> EAST ST. LOUIS	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> EAST ST. LOUIS, IL	
Army All-American. Totaled 98 tackles and two interceptions on defense. Offensively, hauled in 39 receptions for 830 yards and seven touchdowns.	

JAYLON  
**JONES**



<b>POSITION</b> SAFETY	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'2"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 186
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> STEELE	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> CIBOLO, TX	
Under Armour All-American. District Defensive MVP. Amassed four interceptions and five pass break ups while adding 34 tackles, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.	

HAYNES  
**KING**



<b>POSITION</b> QUARTERBACK	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 190
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> LONGVIEW	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> LONGVIEW, TX	
Under Armour All-American. Totaled 30 touchdowns on the season, 20 thru the air and 10 on the ground. Was 123-for-213 for 1,926 yards as a senior, rushed 55 times for 506 yards.	

CHRIS  
**MORRIS**



<b>POSITION</b> OFFENSIVE LINE	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'4"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 286
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> WEST MEMPHIS	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> MEMPHIS, TN	
Under Armour All-American. Anchored an offensive line that saw his team average over 290 yards per game.	

JOSH  
**MOTEN**



<b>POSITION</b> CORNERBACK	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 5'11"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 162
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> WALDORF, MD	
Was targeted just 16 times in 10 games. Of those 16 passes, he broke up 8 and intercepted four.	

BRAEDON  
**MOWRY**



<b>POSITION</b> DEFENSIVE END	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 242
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> TAYLOR	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> KATY, TX	
Finished senior season with 98 total tackles, 22 tackles for loss and 12 sacks. Racked up 33 QB hits, one forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and two blocked kicks.	

MOOSE  
**MUHAMMAD III**



<b>POSITION</b> WIDE RECEIVER	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'1"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 190
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> MYERS PARK	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> CHARLOTTE, NC	
Army All-American. Pulled in 63 passes for 1,270 yards and 17 touchdowns and added a punt return touchdown.	

AKI  
**OGUNBIYI**



<b>POSITION</b> OFFENSIVE LINE	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'4"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 331
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> KEMPNER	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> HOUSTON, TX	
Led the charge for an offensive line that led to over 240 yards per game rushing.	



DEVON  
**ACHANE**



DEMOND  
**DEMAS**

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG SIPE

HAYNES  
**KING**



BRIAN  
**GEORGE**



JAYLON  
**JONES**

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLO LANDSTEINER





BLAKE  
SMITH



SMART  
CHIBUZO

PHOTO COURTESY OF CRIS ARMUJO



DALLAS  
WALKER IV



JOSH  
BANKHEAD



CHRIS  
MORRIS



## DEVIN PRICE



<b>POSITION</b> WIDE RECEIVER	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 201
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> A&M CONSOLIDATED	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> COLLEGE STATION, TX	
Made 31 receptions for 632 yards and 14 touchdowns.	

## ISAIAH RAIKES



<b>POSITION</b> DEFENSIVE TACKLE	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'1"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 327
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> ST. AUGUSTINE PREP	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> WOODBURY, NJ	
Totalled 53 tackles, 16 quarterback hurries, 11 tackles-for-loss, four sacks, two pass breakups, a forced fumble and a blocked punt.	

## BLAKE SMITH



<b>POSITION</b> TIGHT END	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'4"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 257
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> SOUTHLAKE CARROLL	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> SOUTHLAKE, TX	
Caught 40 passes for 491 yards and 10 touchdowns. Added a rushing touchdown.	

## DALLAS WALKER IV



<b>POSITION</b> DEFENSIVE TACKLE	
<b>HEIGHT</b> 6'3"	<b>WEIGHT</b> 321
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b> SMYRNA	
<b>HOMETOWN</b> NASHVILLE, TN	
Posted 30 tackles, one sack, one forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Added 12 catches for 155 yards and two touchdowns.	



ANTONIO  
DOYLE JR.



AKI  
OGUNBIYI



JORDAN  
JEFFERSON

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLA SEROTA



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## JUDO CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The key to success in sports is the ability to get back up after being knocked down. According to Judo Club president Patrick Palmer, getting back up is exactly what makes a great judo competitor. He explained: "Determination to learn, and the ability to shrug off failure. The learning curve in Judo is very high, so most people will take thousands of falls before they start understanding the sport."

Palmer had a background in boxing before joining the club. He bumped into the Judo team at a TAMU recruiting event, decided to go to a practice, and now, three and a half years later, he has earned his green belt and is president of the club.

Like Patrick, most of the members don't join the club with a lot of experience. Palmer told us, "The majority of our members usually don't have experience in Judo specifically before joining the club. I didn't! However, a background in other martial arts such as wrestling, boxing, or

karate is common among our members. In addition to the novice members, we are able to use our Judo scholarships to recruit higher level players from across the country to join our program."

The Judo Club is one of the oldest clubs on campus. They had their first meeting on September 24th, 1962. Since then, they've had tremendous success. The team has been the collegiate regional champions 25 times in the past 29 years. Just this fall, the club's 25 members won a total of 60 matches in competition. Four members of the current team are ranked nationally on the USA Judo roster.

We asked Palmer how the competitions work, and he told us, "In competition, a match is decided in one of several ways: 1. Throwing an opponent on their back with speed, power and control. 2. Pinning an opponent on their back on the ground for 20 seconds. 3. Making an opponent submit or 'tap out' by use of an armbar or choke."

Patrick shared his favorite moment since joining the team, "Personally, winning first place in my division in the 2018 Southwest

regionals was a great feeling, allowing me to look back at how much I'd improved from the first day I had stepped on the mat, to the day I won that tournament." He added, "The club has become a second family for me since I started here. Even though Judo is an individual sport, being on a team of supportive people who are actively seeking to improve both their own skills and the skills of others has made this club feel special for me."



## Rec Sports

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

## TEXAS A&M CREW

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Some of the Sport Clubs at Texas A&M attract student athletes that competed in high school in different sports and are looking for an opportunity to learn a new sport and compete with a team. Mimi Hein, the current Crew president, was on the swim team in high school and joined the Crew Club after a friend in one of her classes recommended it. She told AI "I had been greatly missing sports since leaving my high school swim team and was looking for a sport that would be just as challenging, but had a team-based atmosphere that my previous sport had lacked."

Hein couldn't be more pleased with the decision she made to join the squad: "I could not imagine having a better team to be a part of. Rowing develops not only physical strength but also a mental strength that is unmatched in any other sport. You have to give no less than 100% at all times, because the rest of your boat is relying on your power in addition to their own."

Nate Baker, the Women's Squad Coach, gave us insight into the sport: "Texas A&M Crew goes to competitions, called regattas, anywhere from 3-5 times a semester.

Ranging from Austin to Oklahoma City to Chattanooga, TN, regattas are a great way for us to compete against teams in our region and from all around the country. Regattas are a series of races, split into events based on experience, gender, size, and number of rowers per boat. At A&M Crew, we have a few different squads: men's vs. women's, novice vs. open, and fours vs. eights. Occasionally, rowers will also have the opportunity to race in lightweight events, which sets a weight cap for each athlete. Regattas typically take place on Saturdays, so we will either leave Friday night and stay in a hotel or the house of a generous rower's family, or we will leave early Saturday morning."

The Crew Club was established in 2001

by Greg Wood. Just one year later, in their first competition held in Austin, the mixed 8 took the gold. There are 50-60 members and they practice from 6:15 – 7:30am Mon-Fri indoors and, then, on Lake Bryan 5-7pm Mon/Wed/Thurs.

We asked Mimi about her best experience traveling with the team and she replied "The best part of traveling with Texas A&M Crew is going to the final regatta of our season in Tennessee. Traveling with the team for 4 days is the absolute best way to learn more about your teammates. I have gotten to develop my friendships in much more depth than I ever expected, and all while getting to row on the beautiful water in Tennessee."





the12thman







## welcome to the club...

College Football Hall of Fame members Ray Childress, Dat Nguyen, and Coach R.C. Slocum welcome Jacob Green as the newest Aggie to be inducted into the club. Green became only the 11th Aggie football player to make it into the Hall of Fame. From 1977-1979 Green was one of the greatest defensive players in the former Southwest Conference. He still holds the record for the most sacks in a season by an Aggie (20) and the most career sacks by a defensive lineman (38). Photo courtesy of Aggie Athletics



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